Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-4, 6, 14-17, 19, 28, 29, and 32-42 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 14, 28 and 39 being the independent claims. Claims 5, 7-13, 18, 20-27, 30, and 31 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 32-42 are sought to be added. Claims 1, 14, and 28 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Noehring, et al, U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020188839 (Noehring). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Noehring does not teach or suggest each and every element of amended independent claims 1, 14, and 28 or newly presented claim 39. In Noehring, for outbound packets, a network processor 130 performs a security policy look-up and prepends a security association database (SAD) entry address to a packet. (Noehring, para. [0051]). The SAD entry is then read into memory by the IP Sec processing system 140 based on the SAD entry address. (Noehring, para. [0053]). In Noehring, for inbound packets, the IP Sec processing system 140 identifies a security policy index value having a pointer pointing to the SAD entry. (Noehring, para. [0067]).

The IP Sec processing system 140 reads at least a portion of the SAD table entry into

a local buffer using the identified pointer. (Noehring, para. [0068]).

Noehring does not teach or suggest a method including:

> receiving a security association handle for each packet in the plurality of packets, wherein the security association handle includes a set of selectors;
> for each packet, identifying a flow entry for the packet, including:
> determining a flow element address for the packet,
> retrieving a first flow element using the flow element address, wherein the first flow element includes a plurality of flow entries,
> determining whether a selector in the set of security association handle selectors is present in one of the plurality of flow entries, and
> retrieving a second flow element if a selector in the set of security association handle selectors is not present in one of the plurality of flow entries;
> retrieving security association information for each packet using the identified flow entry

as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 14. Noehring also does not teach or

suggest a system including:

> a cryptographic processing module, wherein the cryptographic processing module includes:
> a policy lookup unit configured to identify a flow associated with each of the received plurality of packets and to retrieve a security association for each identified flow;
> a merge data unit coupled to the policy lookup unit configured to merge a portion of the security association retrieved by the policy lookup unit with the associated packet,
> a plurality of cryptographic processors, each coupled to the merge data unit for performing cryptographic operations on the merged packets.

as recited in amended independent claim 28.

For at least these reasons, amended independent claims 1, 14, and 28 are

patentable over Noehring. Claims 2-4, and 6, and new claims 32-35 depend from

claim 1; claims 15-17, and 19, and new claims 36-37 depend from claim 14; and

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claim 29 and new claim 38 depend from claim 28. For at least the foregoing reasons, and further in view of their own features, dependent claims 2-4, 6, 15-17, 19, 29, 32-35, 36, 37, and 38 are patentable over Noehring. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

New independent claim 39 and its dependent claims 40-42 are patentable for at least the same reasons as amended independent claims 1 and 14.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is

respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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